

Toronto Conservatory of Music

Fifth
Chamber Music Concert

1944-45 SERIES

PARLOW STRING QUARTET

KATHLEEN PARLOW	-	-	Violin
SAMUEL HERSENHOREN	-	-	Violin
ROBERT WARBURTON	-	-	Viola
ISAAC MAMOTT	-	-	'Cello

Assisting Artist

CORNELIUS YSSELSTYN, 'Cello

CONSERVATORY CONCERT HALL

Wednesday, January 17th, 1945, at Five O'Clock

PROGRAMME NOTES

Quartet Movement in C minor Schubert

Composed in 1820 and intended to be the first movement of a complete quartet, as is shown by a Mss. fragment found after Schubert's death.

It represents an almost startling change in style from his early quartets, opening as it does with a mysterious and ever-mounting tremolo, which eventually leads to one of Schubert's most beautiful and characteristic outpourings of melody. In the simplicity of the harmonies and the exquisite part-writing, which nonetheless express the deepest and most inspired of musical feelings, one is well aware of the hand of a master and can only regret the glorious larger work, which would have remained a precious heritage for us had this quartet been completed.

Quintet in C major Schubert

This quintet was composed in 1828 and is thus the last work written by Schubert. Lyrically and dramatically, nothing more perfect has ever been composed for strings. It is sheer enchantment from beginning to end, and words seem almost useless in trying to describe adequately this glorious music.

One might, however, draw attention to a few of the high lights. For example, the quiet opening which quickly leads to excitement, then the indescribably beautiful duet between the two celli, followed by the same theme played by the violins.

The glorious slow movement starts quietly with a most beautiful and moving theme, then gives way to a tempestuous middle section. A few eloquent and dramatic silences bring one to the return of the principal theme, this time embellished by a series of ascending passages given the second cello.

The lively and vigorous scherzo, known as "La Chasse" has a remarkable trio. Instead of the usual "Ländler" rhythm, so dear to Schubert, it is in an almost funereal and menacing mood. Furthermore it is supposed to be his last writing.

The finale is gay and joyous throughout — Viennese in style, with the violins having many charming filigree passages to weave around the themes of the other instruments. The movement becomes ever more exciting and stormy, ending with an energetic and triumphant flourish.

From a purely technical point of view the whole work shows such a mastery of instrumental writing, that instead of the extra cello overpowering the already perfect balance of a string quartet, one can only marvel at the clear and resonant effects obtained.

Programme

GOD SAVE THE KING

Quartet Movement in C minor, Op. posth. Schubert

Quintet in C major, Op. 163 Schubert
for two violins, viola and two celli

Allegro ma non troppo

Adagio

Scherzo - Presto

Allegretto

The next concert will be held on January 31st when the Conservatory String Quartet will play its first programme in the series, consisting of a Beethoven quartet and works by Russian composers.

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